

Chapa spoke directly to Legarreta asking her if she had resigned from her position as a magistrate judge for the City of San Antonio.

Legarreta then accused Chapa of committing a Class A misdemeanor by using the word “judge” on her campaign material when she is not currently an active justice.

In an interview following the debate, Legarreta clarified that she believes Chapa is in violation of the Texas Election Code and misleading voters because she uses the title of judge on her campaign materials rather than “former judge.”

“When you read the law which I understand she does not know, it actually is a Class A misdemeanor for every single time she does it,” Legarreta said.

In response, Chapa said she had received permission to use the title from the State Judicial Commission prior to announcing her campaign. She said she is allowed to use the judge title because she is vested and has earned it. If she wanted to use the title of “Justice” then she would then have to use “former” in front of it, she says.

The violation would be enforced by the Texas Ethics Commission if it was indeed a violation, Chapa added that it had also been cleared by the ethics commission.

Chapa says Legarreta is bound by the judicial canons on ethical standards to resign from her post as a city magistrate prior to running for DA.

Legarreta said she received clarification from the city that she does not have to step down unless she is running for a city position. The DA seat is a county position.